

**GEORGIA
STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
PRESS RELEASE**

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**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD REPORTS
FY 2009 BUDGET BALANCED**

Approves Phase II Stimulus List

ATLANTA – The State Transportation Board reports that despite declining revenues, the Department of Transportation successfully balanced its Fiscal Year 2009 budget, ending the year with a \$577 million surplus after spending \$2.6 billion. Most of the surplus funds from 2009 are already committed for expenditures in FY 2010. The FY 2009 budget is pending a final audit due by the end of September.

The Department cut costs by delaying maintenance projects, suspending mowing contracts, implementing employee furloughs, and not filling vacant positions. From July 2008 through June 2009, the Department lost 494 employees from retirement and attrition leaving a workforce of 5,301.

“We are working to stay within our budget and asking our employees to do more with less resources,” said Board Chairman Bill Kuhlke, Jr. “However there will come a time when cutting our budget will prevent the Department from succeeding in its mission to provide a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system.”

Kuhlke noted that in FY 2009, the Department contracted 280 construction projects totaling \$533.8 million, but without an infusion of funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), there would have been far fewer projects started across the state.

The Department is currently developing its Amended FY 2010 budget and its FY 2011 budget which will be voted on by the Board at its next meeting on September 17. The budget is being compiled based on instructions from the Governor’s office to reduce State General Funds by 4 percent, 6 percent or 8 percent. These cuts could directly impact the aviation, transit and data collections programs. The official request must be presented to the Office of Planning and Budget by September 30.

In other business, the Board approved 162 projects valued at an estimated \$490 million for the Department’s ARRA Phase II stimulus program. These projects will be let to contract through the end of the calendar year.

Georgia DOT is governed by the State Transportation Board. Board members, representing each of the state’s congressional districts, exercise general control and supervision of the Department. Each member serves a five-year term and the terms are staggered. Board members are elected by the state representatives and senators whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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